

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached "Replacement Sheet" of drawings includes changes to Figure 7. The attached "Replacement Sheet," which includes Figures 6B and 7, replaces the original sheet including Figures 6B and 7.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 9-10, 12-30, 33-36, and 38-40 are now pending in the application. Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 10, 13, 15, 18, 26, 29-30, 33, and 35 are amended herein. New claims 38-40 are added herein. Claims 11, 32, and 37 are cancelled herein. Support for the amendments and the new claims can be found at least in the original claims, the figures, and paragraphs [0024], [0026], and [0032] of the specification wherein the support member is shown as having through openings therein and the cables can be attached to the support member by using the through holes and the cables can be disposed on the same side or opposite sides of the support member. No new matter is added. Claims 8 and 31 are withdrawn herein. It is respectfully submitted, however, that claims 8 and 31 will be allowable if a generic claim from which they depend is found to be allowable. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

SPECIFICATION

The Examiner has required a new title. Applicant has replaced the title of the invention.

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to. Applicant has replaced the abstract. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

DRAWINGS

The drawings stand objected to. Applicant has enclosed one (1) "Replacement Sheet" showing Figures 6B and 7. In Figure 7, the reference line for reference indicia 20 has been moved to properly point to floor panel 20.

With this change, Figure 7 now clearly shows that cables 24 beneath floor panel 20 (left hand side) are interconnected to cables 24 (righthand side) on opposite sides of floor panel 20. Support for this change can be found at least within paragraph [0018] and Figure 5 wherein interconnect device 26 is shown as being located on opposite sides of floor panel 20. Thus, no new matter is added.

Additionally, with the amendment to Figure 7, it is respectfully submitted that the instant objection is now rendered moot. Accordingly, withdrawal and reconsideration of the instant objection are requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 3, 13, 18-22, 25-28, and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Notwithstanding, Applicant has amended claims 3-5, 7, 13, 15, 18, 26, and 30. It is believed that with the amendment to these claims the instant rejection is now rendered moot. Accordingly, withdrawal and reconsideration of the instant rejection are requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-7, 9-12, 14-23, 25-29, and 32-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Protzmann (U.S. Pat. No. 3,159,446). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended claim 1 is nonobvious and patentable over the Protzmann reference because the Protzmann reference fails to teach or suggest the support member having at least one through opening that is used to attach the first cable to the support member as called for in claim 1. Specifically, amended claim 1 calls for “attaching a first cable that extends from a first side of an opening in the panel to a support member, said support member having at least one through opening that is used to attach said first cable to said support member.”

In contrast to this subject matter, the Protzmann reference discloses screws on a side of a common duplex receptacle 11 that can be utilized to attach cables thereto and openings on a face of the electric socket 12 that can be used to receive a plug 19 attached to a cable. The screws are not through openings in a support member. Additionally, the openings in the face of electric socket 12 are also not through openings in a support member. Rather, the openings terminate inside receptacle 11. Thus, the Protzmann reference does not disclose or suggest a support member having at least one through opening that is used to attach the first cable to the support member as called for in claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is nonobvious and patentable over the Protzmann reference. Claims 2-7, 9-10, and 12-17 all depend from claim 1 and,

therefore, for at least the same reason stated above with reference to claim 1 are also nonobvious and patentable over the Protzmann reference. Thus, withdrawal of the instant rejection is requested.

Claim 18 is nonobvious and patentable over the Protzmann reference because the Protzmann reference fails to disclose or suggest one of the cables passing through an access opening formed by an offset portion of the cover plate that extends along an edge of the cover plate as called for in claim 18. Specifically, claim 18 calls for “securing a cover plate over at least a portion of the opening in the panel with one of said cables passing through an access opening formed by an offset portion of the cover plate that extends along an edge of the cover plate.”

In contrast to this subject matter, the Protzmann reference discloses a cover plate 21 having a projecting portion 25 with an opening 25a through which the cable passes. Opening 25a, however, is not along an edge of the cover plate. Rather, opening 25a is disposed in a relatively central portion of the cover plate and is elevated therefrom to accommodate the shape of plug 19. Opening 25a is not along an edge of the cover plate. Furthermore, an elevated projection having an opening therein that is central to the plate does not disclose or suggest an access opening formed by an offset portion of a cover plate that extends along an edge of the cover plate as called for in claim 18.

Thus, for at least this reason it is respectfully submitted that claim 18 is nonobvious and patentable over the Protzmann reference. Claims 19-28 all depend from claim 18 and, therefore, for at least the same reason stated above

with reference to claim 18 are also nonobvious and patentable over the Protzmann reference. Accordingly, withdrawal of the instant rejection is requested.

Amended claim 29 is nonobvious and patentable over the Protzmann reference because the Protzmann reference fails to teach or suggest a first electric cable attached to one side of a support member and a second electric cable connected to the first cable from an opposite side of the support member as called for in claim 29. Specifically, amended claim 29 calls for:

attaching a first electrical cable that extends from a first side of an opening in the panel of the aircraft to one side of a support member . . . connecting a second electrical cable that extends from a second side of said opening in the panel of the aircraft to said first cable from an opposite side of said support member so that said first and second cables are electrically conductively connected to one another.

In contrast, the Protzmann reference discloses that electric cables can be attached to a side of duplex receptacle 11 with screws while plug 19 can be inserted into an adjacent side of duplex receptacle 11 through slots in electrical socket 12. The slots in socket 12 and the screws on receptacle 11 are not on opposite sides. Rather, the slots in socket 12 and the screws in the side of receptacle 11 are on adjacent sides which appear to be in planes that are 90 degrees apart. Adjacent sides are not opposite sides of the support member as called for in claim 29.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the Protzmann reference fails to disclose or suggest first and second cables electrically conductively connected to one another from opposite sides of a support member as called for in claim 29.

For at least this reason, it is respectfully submitted that claim 29 is nonobvious and patentable over the Protzmann reference. Claims 30 and 33-34 depend from claim 29 and, therefore, for at least the same reason stated above with reference to claim 29 are also nonobvious and patentable over the Protzmann reference. Accordingly, withdrawal of the instant rejection is requested.

Amended claim 35 is nonobvious and patentable over the Protzmann reference because the Protzmann reference fails to teach or suggest connecting a second cable that extends from a second side of the opening to a first cable so that the first and second cables are connected to one another on a same side of the support member as called for in claim 35. Specifically, amended claim 35 calls for:

attaching a first cable that extends from a first side of an opening in the panel to a support member . . . connecting a second cable that extends from a second side of the opening in the panel to said first cable so that said first and second cables are connected to one another on a same side of said support member.

In contrast, the Protzmann reference, as stated above with reference to claim 29, teaches and suggests the cables being on adjacent sides of duplex receptacle 11 and electric socket 12. Being on adjacent sides that appear to be in planes about 90 degrees apart is not being connected on a same side of a support member. Adjacent sides are not a same side of a support member.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the Protzmann reference fails to teach or suggest first and second cables that are connected together on a same side of a support member as called for in claim 35. For at least this reason it is respectfully submitted that claim 35 is nonobvious and patentable over the

Protzmann reference. Claim 36 depends from claim 35 and, therefore, for at least the same reason stated above with reference to claim 35 is also nonobvious and patentable over the Protzmann reference and withdrawal of the instant rejection is requested.

NEW CLAIMS

Claims 38-40 are added herein. It is respectfully submitted that claims 38-40 further define patentable subject matter in that the Protzmann reference fails to disclose a support member having a generally planar portion wherein either at least one through opening extends, the first cable is attached, or the first and second cables are connected together adjacent. Thus, allowance of claims 38-40 is requested.

EXAMINER'S REQUEST TO PROVIDE REFERENCE NUMERALS


Applicant respectfully declines to provide the requested reference numerals as it is not believed to be necessary to understand the claims. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully believes that the information presented in the previous Response, dated June 22, 2006, adequately aides the Examiner in understanding the claims. It should be appreciated that the scope of the claims is not to be construed as limited to the specific quotes from the specification. Rather, the claims are to be given their full scope and interpretation both literally and equivalently as allowed under law.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: November 20, 2006

By: 
Jeffrey H. Urian,
Reg. No. 46,232

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

JHU/ps